What's new at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc. View this email in your browser

**Newsletter #184:**

**What's New at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.**

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Hello everyone! I hope the holidays and the arrival of 2022 has been good. Unfortunately my year started with a positive Covid test but thankfully the symptoms are no worse than a scratchy throat and sometimes a little headache. If timing was on my side it certainly is now as I wasn't planning to travel to New York until January 10th so hopefully with a negative test and symptom free I should be there as planned. I guess getting the dreaded Covid will be behind me at the very least. It seems these days it is difficult to avoid even for those of us that wear masks and follow protocols.

This newsletter is going to focus on the New York International and the auctions that will be taking place during that week. Most of these auctions will be live floor sales with undoubtedly robust online bidding. If the show gets cancelled at the last minute (which is always a possibility in these times) then the sales will go on but virtually. Either way I will be participating and can help those that need assistance. For any of the below auctions please contact me by email or phone to inquire about rates and the procedure if you are new to this.

Following the auctions there will be the New York International Coin Fair. Please find an entire schedule of events here: **https://www.nyinc.info/**

**Please do** remember the show, as with New York City, requires proof of vaccination in order to enter the show. Do not forget to bring this as there are no exceptions to this rule. I'm assuming that masking is going to be mandatory as well but if it isn't obviously with the numbers at frightening levels for the Omicron variant you should make sure to mask properly.

*So now for the auctions (in order by date):*

**Heritage Auctions - Platinum Night (January 10)**

Even Heritage has a floor auction with typically a good crowd on their Platinum Night at the NY International. Who knows how this year will be but you can be sure that there will be more than a few folks sitting in the auction room. The sale this year is over 400 lots ranging from ancient to world. Heritage runs multiple sales but I will only focus on

the live sale that I will be attending. The first 115 coins are ancient and fit nicely into their portion of the catalog. There are some high grade opportunity pieces to be had. I noticed the Alexander the Great portrait type (30007) which is a lovely variety and tends to be strong in auction. There are two pleasant dekadrachm of Syracuse with minimal die rust (30002 and 30003). Lot 30019 is a type that may appear to be common but is very rare in fact. There was a small group on the market in 2007 and a few of the buyers bought for investment and quickly sold, leading many to view this as an overabundance of the type. Not so. They are beautiful types and the prices have gone down significantly from the once $100,000+ price tags they had. Another very interesting and elusive type is lot 30023, the Phanes trite. This coin has one of the earliest known inscriptions bearing the name of the person Phanes. Who Phanes was is unknown but this inscription and the fact that it is from the dawn of coinage makes this extra special. Lot 30036 is a high grade Arsinoe octodrachm from the Burton Berry collection. Burton Berry was an avid collector and supporter of the American Numismatic Society. He has been deceased for many years but his collection continues to circulate from time to time in auction. Lot 30039 is a lovely Berenice II pentekaidekadrachm (that's a mouthful....or you could say 15 drachm piece). This coin was once owned by the late John Whitney Walter, who also sold his famous Roman gold collection "Men of Rome" back in the 1990's. For those of you that enjoy a bit of trivia. Mr. Walter was the first cousin of Donald Trump. Interesting little tidbit of information. Finally there is a nice group of Jewish Revolt silver shekels and half shekels as well as a few from the Bar Kochba revolt. The ancient section ends with a nice group of Roman aurei. Ensconced in this group is the every popular Cleopatra/Mark Antony cistophoric tetradrachm. This piece can run into the hundreds of thousands but this example is starting at a low level of $6,000. I fully expect it to hammer for much more but it is worth noting and is a nice portrait of Cleopatra.

In the world section lot 30128 is a fascinating gold bar from the Belgian Congo. Lot 30147 is interesting in that it is the first gold coin produced in the Americas and according to Heritage the "Finest Known" for which they make a compelling argument. Lot 30196 is a beautifully toned, museum-quality coin from Silesia-Liegnitz-Brieg struck under George III, Ludwig and Christian in 1657. For those that collect German talers this would be one for consideration. Lot 30244 is a pristine example of George II of Britain, 5 Guineas. There are some beautifully toned examples of the stunning Victoria "Gothic" crown type (lots 30260-30264). Lots 30285-30287 show some fun commemoratives of Elizabeth II. It reflects the mixture of finance and popular culture. For those that like rainbow toning on world coins you should check out lots 30348-30354 which are struck by the USA administration for the Philippines. They are phenomenal pieces. Lot 30366 has an expansive array of 65 proof and proof-like coins from Russia from 1995-2020. The breadth of variety of the dies is impressive and stunning. Lot 30390 is one of the cover coins and rightly so. It is a 3 Ducat piece of Leopold I from Transylvania. The sale ends with an interesting group of countermarked coins.

**The New York Sale 54 (January 11)**

Just as with Heritage, the NY Sale has several catalogs and components. I will just focus on the first night which is their ancient portion. The NY Sale is a collaborative effort from four auction houses: Goldbergs of LA, Markov of NY, M&M of Washington D.C. and Sovereign Rarities of London. The current sale has a dedicated collection from Peter J. Corcoran, as well as other consignors that are not noted by name. It is also a nice thing when the collector is described in the catalog and this is exactly what happens here with a forward page from the happily, living collector who has decided to sell his collection.

The first notable lot is 9. This is a tetradrachm of Leontini of the 'Demareteion Master'. These are seldom found in such nice condition and with a wonderful pedigree to match (ex Ars Classica XV, 2 July 1930, lot 291 and Jacob Hirsch XXXL, 6 May 1912, lot 163). The

reverse is a striking head of Apollo with leaves versus the typical dolphins one sees on similar coins. The reverse is a leaping lion in the exergue. Lot 11 has a delicate portrait of Arethusa on the reverse and was privately purchased from the collector from the author/numismatist Brian Kritt. As one that loves old pedigrees, lot 18 is a pleasant but slightly worn (on reverse) coin of Demetrios Poliorketes. This coin has a wonderful old pedigree from Rollin & Feuardent from 1873 which is very early in the way of known pedigrees. The estimate is also very reasonable at $700. Lot 76 is an interesting Mina (or weight) from the Seleucid Empire under the reign of Antiochus X. Weights from this period are not commonly seen and this is detailed and very interesting.

There is a reasonably good Jewish coin section in this sale and one piece that is not in the most pristine condition but is a rarer year is lot 81, a Year 4 shekel from the First Revolt. There is a low estimate on it at the moment of $5,000.

Lots 134 and 135 are two rather rare Sasanian coins of women. One of Queen Buran and the other of Queen Azarmidokht. An absolutely fantastic, but likely not to attract all collectors, is lot 136, a Persis tetradrachm overstruck on an Alexander the Great tetradrachm. Not typically seen and for those collecting overstrikes a must.

Lot 171 is a high grade pedigreed denarius of Pompey the Great. It has a strong estimate but worth a premium in my opinion. Lot 172 is another member of the Pompey family, Sextus. This coin has wonderful toning and a sharp clear strike. The reverse is only slightly off-center. Lot 240 is a high grade Otho denarius with perfectly coiffed hair, a feature that is highly sought after for the type. Lot 334 is a well-struck denarius of Didia Clara, the daughter of Didius Julianus. Didius Julianus was a short-lived emperor in 193 AD. Lot 350 is a rarely encountered medallion of a youthful Caracalla.

The cover coin of the catalog is lot 356, an aureus of Macrinus. At a whopping $125,000 estimate it is not for the faint of heart but the quality is above par and for those collecting Roman emperors it is a pristine example. Lot 390 is a very rare and unusually well preserved antoninianus of Jotapian. This coin is very difficult to obtain and certainly not in this condition.

**Triton XXV (January 11-12)**

Triton is holding their 25th sale at the New York International on January 11-12. The cover 'coin' of this catalog (lot 1278) is one that is rarely encountered. A whopping (and I mean whopping) 14.36 kg (that is 31 lbs. folks!) copper 8 Daler piece of plate money made under Karl X Gustav in 1659. Swedish plate money is not for all collectors but I have always been fascinated by these clunky and unkempt pieces. Plate money was produced out of necessity due to a loss of precious metals via endless wars fought by Sweden. Plate money remained legal tender until 1777.

Triton takes place over two days and four sessions. There are 1,378 lots in the auction ranging from ancient to world. The sale ends with a number of large lots. There are a number of known collections in this sale. The first is a continuation of Dr. Jay M. Galst, a collector who unfortunately died in the early days of the pandemic. Jay was a friendly man who visited the floor of the New York International religiously year in and out. He was an ophthalmologist by profession so many of his coins and medals have some direct connection to his passion. Additionally, being of Jewish descent, Jay had a fascination with coins from the Holyland. There is a wonderful array of pieces available in this area. Jay's coins have been offered in the last few sales.

Another auction continuation is the "Father & Son" collection. This group is mainly coins of Judaea and purchased over the last twenty or so years. The Judaean coinage mainly fell into the collection of the "Father". The "Son" collected Greek of fine quality. These coins were first presented in the 118 MBS of CNG and continue to be offered in the sales.

Richard Horst is another collector, now deceased, who has a collection of Greek and world coins being offered in this sale.

Finally there are three collections, Thomas Palmer, Ray Neff and Jeroen de Wilde, all living (thankfully!) and their various collections.

The sale is typical of the outstanding quality found in CNG's hallmark Triton auctions with rare types and impressive pedigrees. A few interesting pieces I noted and not necessarily the most expensive coins in the sale: Lot 175 is a "colt" coin from Ambracia, a colony of Corinth. What makes this coin special is the symbol of a cicada on the reverse. The various symbols that grace these coins are what make them collectible and interesting. Lot 185 is a very rare highly sought after coin of Delphi's Amphictyonic League. After a devastating earthquake in 373 BC and the destruction of their temple, the inhabitants of the league decided to melt down their existing coinage and produce this type in order to finance the new temple. This coin is dated to a 1959 Hess-Leu sale. Lot 206 is a popular and expensive type to procure, a coin depicting the famous Labyrinth at Knossos. This one does not have a specific pedigree noted but based on an old dealer ticket is certainly from an older collection. Lot 271, a tetradrachm of Knidos is a lovely type and in superior condition. Lot 374 is an exceptional prutah under Mattathias Antigonos with a menorah depicted on the reverse. The obverse shows a showbread table. These coins are sought after for their rarity. CNG claims "finest known" for the issue and it is stunning. Unfortunately the coin lacks a pedigree which would make it even more fantastic. Within the Jewish section is the rare offering of a Year 5 shekel from the Jewish War. A small handful of these coins have survived to this day. Being able to purchase a Year 5 is an opportunity not often offered. The very next lot is about the most stunning Bar Kochba Revolt coin I have ever seen. Both this and the Year 5 were part of the Jay Galst collection. Lot 411 is a zuz, or denarius from the Bar Kochba Revolt. These coins are typically overstruck on Roman coins from the same period. Often a denarius of Trajan is a common occurrence. This example is overstruck on a denarius of Plotina, the wife of Trajan and most certainly not common among the undertypes. Lot 458 shows another undertype, this time of Vespasian, but the placement square in the middle of the coin is wonderful and reflects the gravity of the times.

Other interesting lots are 541 which is a very well struck bronze of Cleopatra VII. There is an extensive and beautiful gold Kushan dinar collection offered from lots 583 to 633.

For Roman provincial coinage, lot 648 is one of the most interesting and sought after types, a depiction of Noah's Ark on the reverse of a coin from Apameia. This piece is struck under Macrinus but there are other emperors from the same time period and later that have the Noah's Ark reverse. This piece was part of the Gilbert Steinberg collection auction in 1994 by NAC and afterwards part of the Jay Galst collection. Lots 715-719 offer several desirable coins from the Zodiac series of Antoninus Pius.

Under Republican coinage is a stellar example of a denarius of Sextus Pompey. This comes from a 2016 NAC auction. Lot 817 is probably the longest pedigreed coin in the sale going back to the famous Este family and pedigreed back to 1538. Perhaps slightly different from the collectors of today, the Este family actually marked their coins with a countermark. They are outstanding types in that the collector has become the source of collectibility. Lot 845 is a toned and beautiful denarius of Domitilla, the wife of Vespasian and mother of Domitian and Titus. Rarely seen in this condition. Lot 849 is another opportunity to get an Este coin. This time on a Judaea Capta bronze.

The last part of the catalog has a few gems. I noticed lot 1026, a rare empress, Aelia Verina, the wife of Leo I and in stellar condition. Under the world coinage, lot 1149 is another Zodiac coin but this time centuries later under Julius of Germany in 1568-1589. Lot 1197 is a beautifully toned silver Daalder from the Low Countries. Lot 1211 is literally a treasure. A group of reales and ingots found in the wreckage of a vessel, the *Slot per Hooge* that sunk in 1724 near the island of Porto Santo, near Madeira. The last lot of considerable interest in lot 1313, a repoussé tin schraubtaler. The schraubtaler is a kind

of story within a coin. Literally a coin or metal that is cut in two with a little paper story within. This particular one is a sought after story and historical part of Judaica reflecting the sad but true story of Joseph Süss, a Jewish banker and court "Jew" to the Duke of Württemberg. As often witnessed throughout the ages Jews have been persecuted and Joseph Süss was no exception. This shows his story in several small colored drawings. Made sometime in the 1700's, this piece is an important piece of history and reflects the anti-semitic tensions that were already present in Germany well before WWII.

**Stacks Bowers Galleries in conjunction with Künker - The Salton Collection (Part I) (January 16)**

This auction takes place on the last day of the international show so likely many people will be bidding through the fantastic Stacks Bowers bidding portal. Viewing however will be available starting January 11 at the Barclay Hotel and the auction will also take place there.

This is the first installment of many sales that will highlight the Mark and Lottie Salton Collection. Mark Salton, formerly Schlessinger, was from a well-respected numismatic family from Berlin, Germany. Due to the second world war the family was torn apart and Mark's parents were killed by the Nazis. Thankfully Mark made his way to New York where he settled, met another Holocaust survivor, Lottie Aronstein and started (or continued in terms of Mark) their livelong interest in numismatics and collecting. The Stack and Salton families were extremely close so it was fitting that the collection is being offered by Stacks in partnership with the firm of Künker from Osnabrück, Germany.

This first section is Ancient Greek, Polish and Russian coins from the Salton Collection. Many of the coins have old pedigrees reflecting the true collector in both Mark and Lottie. Some of the coins will not appeal to the collector that is just in search of 'eye appeal' but I can assure you that many of these coins are worth your time and consideration. There are some hidden gems within. The one coin that stopped me in my tracks is lot 4142, a very beautiful signed dekadrachm of Kimon. Normally one sees a very shrewd looking Arethusa on the Kimon dekas. This Arethusa has the soft appeal of those found on the coins of Euainetos but clearly is from the artist Kimon. This coin is a wonder piece and certainly whoever buys it will be ecstatic to be the new owner. Lot 4310 is one of the more dynamic and artistically beautiful coins of Elis. this coin also has a pedigree back to 1906. Lot 4390 is a dazzling 7 Ducat from Poland under Sigismund III. This also comes from a 1909 auction as well as being a lot in the 1930 Schlessinger sale. Finally lot 4424 is an overweight and unique Novodel Ducat from Russia. This coin is struck under Elizabeth.

**Coin of the Week**

**MACEDONIA. Mende. c. 430-423 BC**
AR Tetradrachm, 17.23g (25mm, 6h). Bearded Dionysos lounging on donkey; Dionysos wears a laurel wreath and holds a kantharos which he supports on his raised knee / MEN/ΔA/I/ON. Grapevines with five bunches of grapes; all within a square incuse.

**Pedigree: From the Robert Käppeli collection. Ex Adolph Hess - Bank Leu [3], 1956, lot 266**

*References: AMNG pl. 1, 16. Noe, Kaliandra 81 = MGK 455 (this coin). Babelon IV 984, pl. 316, 2. Franke-Hirmer 406. Franke/Marathaki fig. 56. HGC 3, 547*

*Grade: Beautifully struck with nice cabinet toning. Some wear the top part of the legend on the reverse. Mint State / aEF*

Price: $37,500
gk1574

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This coin comes from a 1956 Hess - Leu collaboration auction and is from the Kalliandra Hoard of 1913(?). The hoard was first published by Sydney Noe of the ANS in the 1925 edition of Numismatic Notes and Monographs (NNM). Composed of 320+

silver coins, after discovery, it was dispersed among the following museums: London, Paris, [illegible] Athens, as well as in the trade and with certain prominent individuals, listed in the historic record as, R. Jameson, G. Empedocles and E.T. Newell. In 1926, Noe wrote further about the hoard. In fact, this coin is featured on plate IX, 81 in that study. The hoard's burial is likely prior to 423 BC, which was when the city was plundered by the Athenians. After this time, the Athenian monetary law went into effect and it is reasonable to assume that there was a discontinuation of this tetradrachm type. After this hoard, scholars determined that Mende must have been more commercially prominent than originally thought. The coins of Mende are filled with beautiful and celebratory imagery of the god Dionysus reclining drunkenly on the back of a donkey. One almost wants to pick up a glass of wine to participate in the festivities. The reverse shows the city state name along with grape vines, the essential element to the creation of wine.

https://www.shannaschmidt.com/greek-coins/macedonia-mende-c-430-423-bc

If you are interested in this coin please click the link above or email me at shanna@shannaschmidt.com

Until next week!
*Shanna*

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